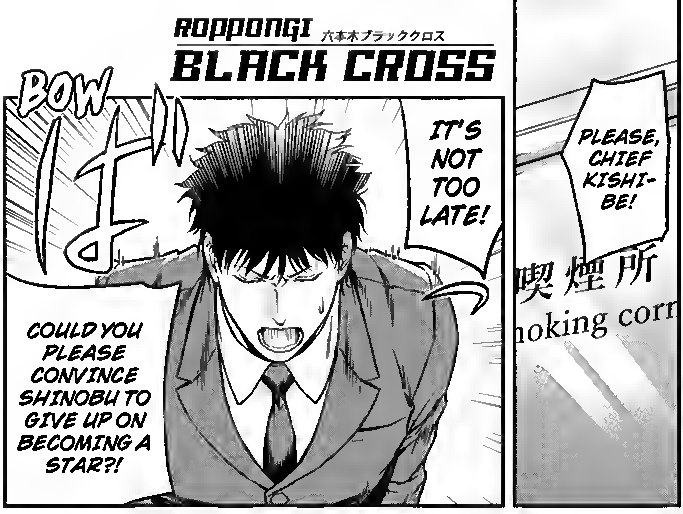

STORY: KIMIO YANAGISAWA
ART: YOUSUKE MORI

TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
YKS SERVICES LLC/SKY JAPAN, INC

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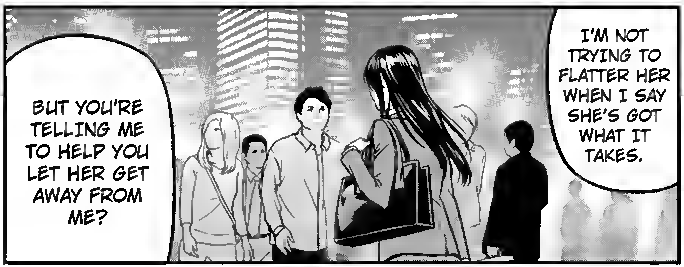
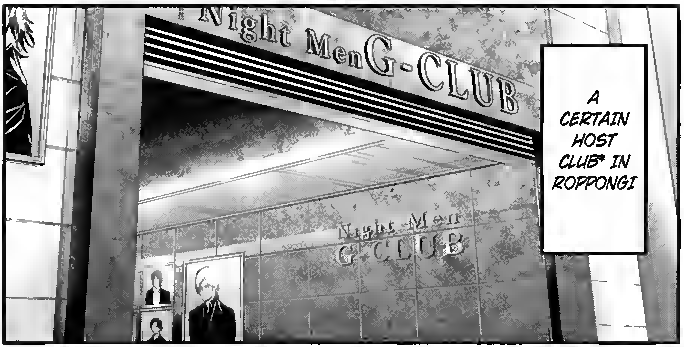


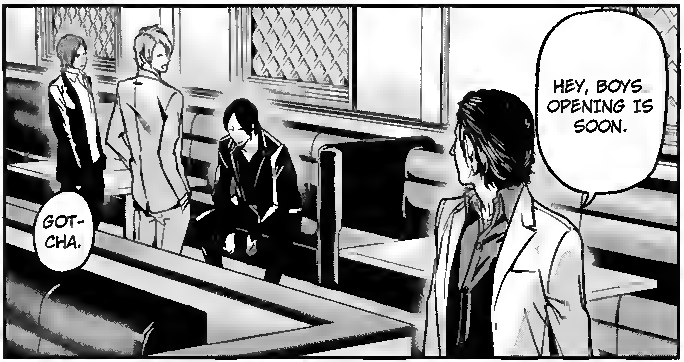
IT WAS YOUR SOLICITATION THAT STARTED THIS.
THAT'S MY JOB.
AND THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE IF *SHE* HADN'T COME *HERE*.

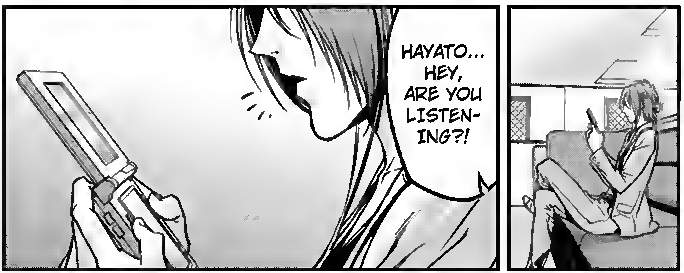
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES, AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY.

I GET WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM, BUT AOI-SAN'S PASSION IS THE REAL DEAL.
I THINK IT'S PART OF A BOYFRIEND'S JOB TO RESPECT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S WISHES.
WELL... I WON'T DO HER ANY HARM.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE UP WITH HER, WHY DON'T YOU LET HER DO WHAT SHE WANTS?
HEH HEH.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, SIR.

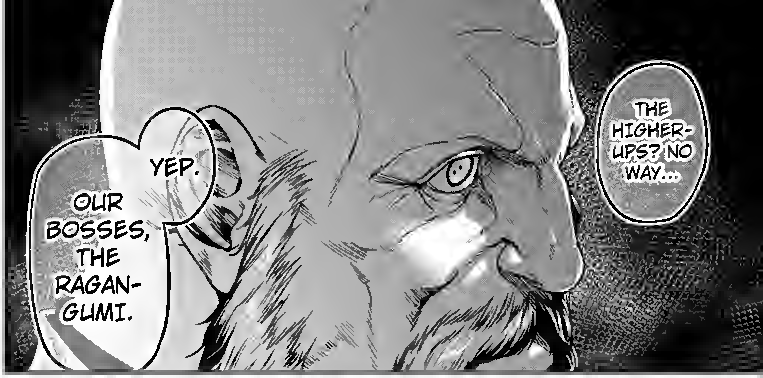
*THE SLIGHTLY LESS COMMON COUNTERPART OF HOSTESS CLUBS OR KYABAKURA. STRAIGHT WOMEN PAY HANDSOME YOUNG MEN TO HAVE DRINKS AND CHAT WITH THEM. MANY OF THESE SORTS OF LEGIT BUSINESSES ARE ACTUALLY OWNED BY YAKUZA

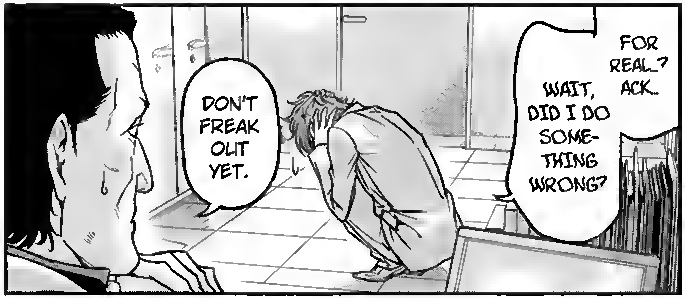


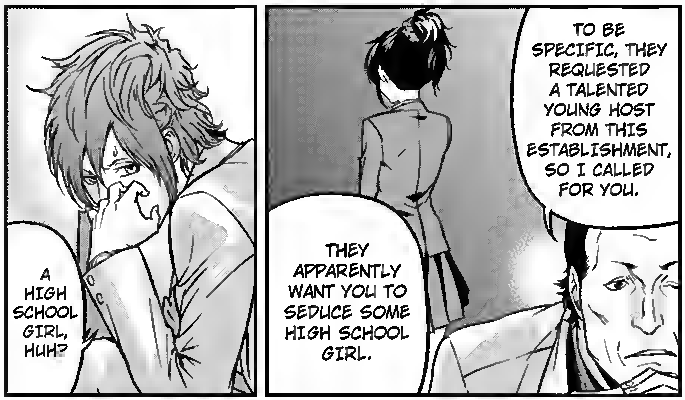




WHAT'D YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
HEY.
WHAT ?
THE BOSS?
STUDENT AT A FIRST-CLASS PRIVATE UNIVERSITY AND A YOUNG, POPULAR HOST
HAYATO
YOU'RE WANTED.
BY THE HIGHER-UPS, THAT IS.
HUH ?!


THE HIGHER-UPS? NO WAY...
YEP.
OUR BOSSES, THE RAGAN-GUMI.


FOR REAL..? ACK.
WAIT, DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?
DON'T FREAK OUT YET.

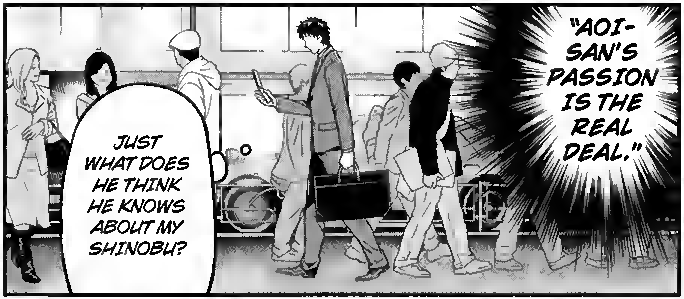

TO BE SPECIFIC, THEY REQUESTED A TALENTED YOUNG HOST FROM THIS ESTABLISHMENT, SO I CALLED FOR YOU.
THEY APPARENTLY WANT YOU TO SEDUCE SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, HUH?

THEY'RE NOT GONNA KILL YOU! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CHAT UP A NORMAL GIRL.
IT'S JUST THE DAUGHTER OF SOME GUY IN ANOTHER GANG, ISN'T IT?
I CAN'T, I CAN'T! I'LL BE KILLED!
WHATEVER!
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME!
WHAT? YOU MORON ...
OH, WELL. CALL SOMEONE ELSE IN HERE, THEN.
AND TELL THEM ...
TAP
I DON'T THINK IT'D GO WELL! SORRY!
I DON'T WANNA STEP ON THE MORE EXPERIENCED GUYS' TOES, ANYWAY!

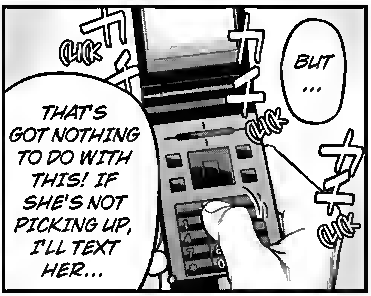
THAT IT'S A MILLION YEN..
IN ADVANCE, PLUS ANOTHER TWO MILLION IF HE SUCCEEDS.
JEEZ ...
YOU'RE ALWAYS MESSING WITH ME, BOSS...
YOU SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THIS PART FIRST.
SMIRK

...
...
...
THAT SHINOBU! SHE'S THROWING A TOTAL TANTRUM.

THE NUMBER YOU HAVE JUST DIALED IS EITHER OUT OF RANGE OR...


JUST WHAT DOES HE THINK HE KNOWS ABOUT MY SHINOBU?
"AOI-SAN'S PASSION IS THE REAL DEAL."

AH...
BZZZZZZZZ
BZZ


BUT ...
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS! IF SHE'S NOT PICKING UP, I'LL TEXT HER...

HELLO? SHINO-BU..?
OH! KU-ROKI-KUN! SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE!
K-
KA-YAMA ...
YOU'RE OFF WORK, RIGHT?
HEY... DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME RIGHT NOW?
THIS ONE PHONE CALL WILL SPUR FATE INTO HIGH SPEED!